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10. Continuous Work History Sample (CWHS) Data Dictionary

10.1. The CWHS Master File

10.1.1. Source of Data and File Structure

The term Continuous Work History Sample (CWHS) is somewhat ambiguous. At first (1939), the CWHS had an SSN-based sample design, which was used to extract various size samples from SSA's program records. Today, when SSA analysts use the term CWHS, they usually refer to a series of annual data files containing, but not limited to, earnings and employment data from SSA program records.

Unlike the MBR, SSR, Numident, and MEF, the CWHS is an analytical master file. It is created from several administrative master files and its primary purpose is to support research and statistical analysis rather than to administer specific SSA programs. However, the CWHS is one of the primary resources for data on earnings and employment within ORES and is one of the main ways in which ORES analysts encounter the earnings data of the MEF.

Most of the CWHS files are currently based on one percent samples of the MBR and MEF master files. Some of the CWHS files are longitudinal and cover data from the beginning of SSA programs, while other report from the CWHS are designed to reflect aspects of single calendar years' earnings or employment. The sample records are selected based on certain serial digits of the SSN. The same digits are used each year, which increases the continuity of the data. In many situations, the sample can be treated as a random sample, but subsampling can be complicated and should be discussed with SSA analysts.

The CWHS is updated annually. The annual cycle adds data from newly issued SSNs from the Numident file. Records for deceased workers are not purged from the files, so birth cohorts can be studied over time. The MBR provides certain beneficiary information for retirement claims and disability benefits data, and the MEF is used to add the latest year of earnings, or in the case of one percent 1937-to-date CWHS longitudinal files all years earnings data are updated for adjustments and corrections to the MEF. In addition to the above data, which are derived from SSA master files, the CWHS files access items from Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Schedule SE of Form 1040, some basic employer coverage, industry, and geographic information from the employer's Application for Identification Number (Form SS-4), and worker residence (state and county) from the processing of W-2 data at SSA.

It is important to note the timing of arrival of new earnings, claims, and benefits data. The update sequence has traditionally been controlled by the posting cycle

for earnings data. The point at which earnings data are considered complete for statistical purposes is currently mid-January, about thirteen months after the end of a calendar tax year. This means that for year 2004 earnings data, the extraction from the MEF will occur in January 2006 and the CWHS files will be generated over the next three to four months. Therefore, the CWHS files for year 2004 will become available in April or May 2006. The CWHS files are designed to capture an accounting picture of the target data year. This means that claims and benefit data for the year 2004 CWHS files concern entitled benefits and insured status for the year 2004 as opposed to the actual date of payment of benefit checks or processing of claims forms. To achieve this time frame, the 2004 CWHS files use a December 2004 and a June 2005 MBR extract to determine entitlements for year 2004.

There are two versions of the CWHS—an active one and an inactive one. The active file provides a longitudinal work history of covered and noncovered earnings (including from self-employment), demographic information, and an annual picture of claims and benefit information for each SSN. The term "active" refers to any worker with earnings from *any* employment, regardless of whether those earnings are covered under Social Security. Prior to 1978, the CWHS tracked only Social Security-covered earnings; starting in 1978, the CWHS was extended to include uncovered earnings. The inactive file provides a longitudinal history, including demographic, claims, and benefit information, for individuals who have never worked and, thus, have no earnings, covered or uncovered. The active file is used far more frequently than the inactive file. For both files, the unit of observation is an SSN.

Files Produced in CWHS System

- **One-percent 1937-to-Date CWHS File.** A one-percent sample of SSNs issued through the cut-off date of the file reflecting the individual's entire work experience in covered employment and non-covered employment beginning 1978. Basic data elements include: (1) demographic characteristics—year of birth, sex, and race; (2) employment—number of years employed, first and last years employed, and number of quarters of coverage from 1937 to date; (3) type of work—farm or non-farm, wage, or self-employment; (4) taxable earnings each year from 1951-to-date; (5) self-employment taxable income each year from 1951 to the year prior to current year; (6) self-employment net earnings, for year prior to current year; (7) insurance status; (8) benefit status and dates of entitlement; (9) Medicare taxable earnings, including earnings over the Social Security annual taxable maximum beginning in 1991, and Medicare-only earnings (wages 1983-to-date and self-employment 1991-to-date); and (10) total compensation from the W-2 form (1978 and later).

- **One-percent Annual Employee-Employer (EE-ER) File**. This is a one-percent sample of SSNs for which wage and salary employment was

reported for the reference year. One record exists for each employer-employee combination. Basic data elements include: (1) personal characteristics – year of birth, sex, and race; (2) wage-annual taxable, total estimated wages (prior to 1978), and total compensation (1978 and later); (3) employer-state and county, industry, and coverage group (such as farm, household, and federal civilian; and (4) Medicare earnings (1983 and later). A major distinction of the EE-ER from the CWHS is that earnings are reported at the employer level, from the "detail" portion of the MEF. There is a record for each employer a worker is employed by in the year. They are not summarized to an annual total.

There are two versions of this file, a Social Security (labeled as FICA) and Social Security-covered and non-covered (labeled as FICA/non-FICA) version. Both files contain information about Social Security covered employment. The FICA/non-FICA file contains additional information about earnings over the Social Security annual taxable maximum, employment and earnings covered only by Medicare, and employment and earnings not covered by Social Security or Medicare.

- **One-percent 1957-to-date Longitudinal Employee-Employer Data (LEED) File.** This is a longitudinal version of the EE-ER file, sorted by SSN, year, and EIN (Employer Identification Number) combination. The basic data elements are the same as for the Annual EE-ER file for the corresponding years. This file is used by other federal agencies for studies of workers in different geographic regions and different industries over time.

- **One-percent Annual Self-Employed (SE) File**. This is a one-percent sample of SSNs for which self-employment earnings subject to Social Security and/or Medicare taxation were reported in the reference year. From 1991 to 1993, self-employment income was taxable for Medicare beyond the Social Security annual taxable maximum up to the higher Medicare maximum. In 1994, the Medicare annual taxable maximum was eliminated. For workers with Social Security wages at the annual taxable maximum any self-employment they had was subject to Medicare taxation up to the Medicare annual taxable maximum from 1991 to 1993, and with no limit from 1994 on. This is referred to as Medicare-only self-employment income, and is included in this file beginning with 1996. Medicare-only self-employment income from 1991 on is found in the CWHS file.

10.1.2. Data Usage Issues

There are two special data fields created in the CWHS update process that are not part of the parent administrative record systems: insured status and benefit status. Insured status measures an individual's projected eligibility for retirement and entitlement to survivor benefits based on the number of quarters of coverage

accrued thus far in his or her work history. The codes in this field indicate if sufficient quarters of coverage have been earned to guarantee benefit eligibility or for younger workers if quarters of coverage are being earned at a rate that will result in guaranteed benefit eligibility at the attainment of age 65. The benefit status field shows whether benefits are being received under the sample SSN. The benefit status code also identifies the type of benefits being paid—retirement, survivors, or disability benefits. Both codes are available for each calendar year, which permits analysis of change of status over time.

10.2. Description of CWHS Data Elements

The following pages document the data elements in the CWHS master file that are particularly relevant for research. Note that some data elements contain references to Office of Information Management (OIM) data element names that represent the same data. Systems is updating the names again at this time and we will update this chapter again once the CWHS modernization is complete.

The CWHS variables documented in this section are considered to be the most useful to our research community and come from the Active File. If you are interested in a full layout of the CWHS file please contact the Earnings and Employment Statistics Team (EEST). Contact information for EEST is located at the end of this chapter. The data elements are presented in alphabetical order.

10.2.1. AMTFBF Amount of Family Benefit in Force

Type:	numeric
Data Format:	binary
Repeating:	
Reset:	annually from MBR data
Edited:	annually from MBR data
Master Record Location:	MBR (MBA) Monthly Benefit Amount
Related Data Elements:	
OEEAS Tags:	AMTFBFPY, CFBF, CFBFPR

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

This data element indicates the actual total family benefit amount for current year.

POSSIBLE VALUES

Monetary value with one implied decimal fraction, i.e., with dimes but not pennies.

USAGE NOTES

To reflect the last full calendar year and obtain the family benefit amount in force as of December 31 of the data year, the CWHS uses two MBR extracts for each data year — in late December of the data year and in the following June.

10.2.2. SSN CAN/HUN of Sampled Individual

Type:	Numeric
Data Format:	Binary
Repeating:	
Reset:	
Edited:	
Master Record Location:	MEF, Numident, previous CWHS
Related Data Elements:	
OEEAS Tags:	

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

This data element provides the SSN of the sampled individual.

The CWHS is a 1 percent sample of stratified cluster design based on serial digit patterns of the SSN. For practical purposes, it may be considered to be random. As new people enter the Social Security system (e.g., by applying for an SSN), they are eligible to become part of the CWHS sample if they meet the sampling criteria. Records are never dropped from the CWHS; as individuals die, they are retained in the sample. Because the sample is SSN-based, the CWHS will include both active records (with earnings), and inactive records (no earnings).

POSSIBLE VALUES

XXX-YY-ZZZZ

Area: XXX (001-999). Assigned based on geographic area of the U.S.
Exceptions include:
- 700s - Railroad Retirement beneficiaries. Some 700s are now being released to states that have used up their initial allocation. – Not yet used for SSNs.
- 900s – Not yet used for SSNs. Some numbers in this series were "pseudo numbers" given to welfare benefits (1974-early 1990s). These are not included in the Numident file but exist on other administrative files

Group: YY (01-99). Time of issue: Even numbers are assigned first (02-98), followed by odd numbers (01-99).
Serial: ZZZZ (0001-9999). Serial number.

USAGE NOTES

None.

10.2.3. CTE37TD Cumulative Taxable Earnings 1937-to-Date

Type:	numeric
Data Format:	binary
Repeating:	
Reset:	annually updated from MEF
Edited:	annually updated from MEF
Master Record Location:	MEF/previous CWHS
Related Data Elements:	
OEEAS Tags:	CEACR37DT

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

This data element is the sum of all Social Security taxable earnings for the period 1937 to present for the person represented on this record.

POSSIBLE VALUES

In general, earnings in Social Security covered employment are taxable to both the employee and employer up to the annual maximum taxable amount. In the case where a worker has earnings from more than one employer and the worker's total earnings from the various employers exceed the taxable maximum, the worker pays Social Security taxes on the earnings up to the annual taxable maximum. However, each employer pays up to the taxable maximum for each employee, because the taxable maximum is separate for each employer. The employers both pay taxes on the entire amount of earnings in Social Security-covered employment, as though there were no other employers involved. This means that the total amount of earnings in Social Security covered employment that is considered taxable to employees is the sum of all taxable earnings up to the annual taxable maximum. However, the total amount of earnings taxable to employers can be higher because of the instance described above where an employee has multiple employers and exceeds the annual taxable maximum.

The annual taxable dollar maximums are as follows:

http://www.ssa.gov/OACT/COLA/cbb.html

USAGE NOTES

Earnings below $1.00 are posted as $1.00. No deeming is done for any year.

This data element sums earnings from multiple employers in a given year. Although earnings from any one employer are capped at the taxable maximum, it is possible for earnings from multiple jobs to exceed the taxable maximum.

10.2.4. DENT Dual Entitlement Indication

Type:	Numeric 1
Data Format:	
Repeating:	
Reset:	
Edited:	
Master Record Location:	MBR
Related Data Elements:	
OEEAS Tags:	CDENT

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

This data element describes the dual entitlement status of the person represented on this record.

POSSIBLE VALUES

Benefit-in-force (BIF) survivors only
0 - No dual entitlement
2 - At least one survivor dually entitled
4 - All survivors dually entitled

BIF Primaries
1 - No dual entitlement
3 - Auxiliary but not primary dually entitled
5 - At least primary dually entitled

O/T Above
6 - No benefits in force as of current CWHS year

USAGE NOTES

None.

10.2.5. DIBYR Disability Beginning Year

Type:	Character
Data Format:	
Repeating:	
Reset:	
Edited:	
Master Record Location:	MBR (Date of Disability Onset)
Related Data Elements:	
OEEAS Tags:	CDIMOBE, CDIYRBE

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

This data element reflects the month and year of the first or only "onset of disability." Onset of disability means that the disability condition was established by medical documentation for either approval or disapproval. To determine whether the "onset of disability" for an individual was approved, the benefit status "6" must be verified and a check must be done to ensure that there was no date of cessation (termination) of benefit. Once the onset of disability has been approved, there will be a gap of five full calendar months before the individual will be entitled to a benefit.

POSSIBLE VALUES

Alpha/Numeric

MONTH:

Blank - None or Unknown
A through L - January through December
Z - Not available. (Code not used after 1977.)

YEAR:
0000 - None or unknown
1941 - Through current year

USAGE NOTES

In DIBYR, date of onset means date when applied only—The person may not have been approved, so DIBYR cannot be used alone to define disability status. Once established in the CWHS this field will never change. However, in the MBR, there are other onset-fields to indicate other possible periods of disability.

10.2.6. DOB Date of Birth of Primary

Type:	Numeric 5
Data Format:	Date–MMYYY
Repeating:	
Reset:	
Edited:	
Master Record Location:	Numident, MEF Accretion, Prior CWHS, MBR
Related Data Elements:	
OEEAS Tags:	CDOB, CMBR, CYRBR

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

This data element indicates the date of birth of the person represented on this record.

POSSIBLE VALUES

MMYYY Numeric

Month of Birth: 01 through 12 - January through December
Year of Birth: Century (1 Digit) and year (2 Digit)
Unknown month and year is coded 90744
Unknown month is coded 00YYY

USAGE NOTES

Initially the DOB comes from the Numident and is posted in the CWHS. If a MBR Claim is filed on the account then the claim's record will always take precedence over the prior CWHS.

10.2.7. DOD Date of Death

Type:	Character
Data Format:	
Repeating:	
Reset:	
Edited:	
Master Record Location:	MEF
Related Data Elements:	DODSR
OEEAS Tags:	CDTDTH

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

This data element indicates the date of death of the person represented on this record.

POSSIBLE VALUES

Month:

Blank - None or Unknown
A through L - January through December

Year:

0000 - None or Unknown
4 digit year

USAGE NOTES

The MEF discontinued collecting these data after 1978. Early years are questionable. This data element should be used with caution.

10.2.8. DODIB Month and Year of First Entitlement to DIB

Type:	Character 5
Data Format:	Date–MYYYY
Repeating:	
Reset:	
Edited:	
Master Record Location:	MBR (DOEC)
Related Data Elements:	
OEEAS Tags:	CMODIB, CYRDIB

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

This data element indicates the month and year the primary beneficiary became entitled to first or only period of disability benefits.

POSSIBLE VALUES

MONTH:

Blank	- None or unknown
A through L	- January through December
Z	- Not available. (Code not used after 1971.)

YEAR:

0000 – None
1957 to current

USAGE NOTES

Once established in the CWHS, this date will never change.

10.2.9. DODSR Date of Death Source

Type:	Character 1
Data Format:	
Repeating:	
Reset:	
Edited:	
Master Record Location:	MEF
Related Data Elements:	DOD
OEEAS Tags:	CUSDODS

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

This data element indicates the source of date of death information for the person represented on this record.

POSSIBLE VALUES

0 - Old Beneficiary-in-Force (BIF) tape
2 - Claims Termination File (CT1) (old statistical file of termination prior to 1962)
3 - Payment center holding file
4 - SCIP
6 - Disabled survivor
7 - Proof of death (undertaker report)
8 - Survivors claim
9 - MBR
E - Numident via earnings after death transaction
Q - Master Benefit Record (DIB termination)
R - Current Master Benefit Record (BIF tape) (DIB termination)
X - Railroad Board (RRB)
1 - SSI death
5 - Black Lung file
Blank -Reason not used or codeable

USAGE NOTES

The MEF discontinued collecting these data after 1978 since the dates of death were not reliable.

10.2.10. DOENT Month and Year of Entitlement or Death

Type:	Character X
Data Format:	
Repeating:	
Reset:	
Edited:	
Master Record Location:	MBR, MEF
Related Data Elements:	
OEEAS Tags:	CMOENT, CYRENT

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

This is a dual-purpose field containing either the date of death or date of current entitlement of the primary beneficiary. If the beneficiary is alive and receiving benefits, the field contains the date of entitlement. If the beneficiary is dead, it contains the date of death. To distinguish these two possibilities, it is necessary to check the **Benefit Status Code** data element. (See below.)

When a survivor begins to draw from an account with unknown year of death, the year of entitlement will be changed to the earlier of the following: year of discovery of death or year of survivor entitlement.

POSSIBLE VALUES

MONTH:

Blank - None or unknown
A through L - January through December
Z - Not available

YEAR:

0000 - No death or current entitlement
0001 - Unknown Year of death
0002 - Unknown Year of death

4 Digit Year - 1937 through current CWHS year

USAGE NOTES

If the Benefit Status Code is 0, 1, 6, T, P, or X (living primary), this field represents the month and year of entitlement.

If Benefit Status Code is 2 (deceased primary), this field represents the latest entitlement before death.

If Benefit Status Code is Y, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, or 9, this field represents the date of death of the SSN holder or date of entitlement for survivor benefits on the SSN.

If other than the above, this field represents the month and year of death.

10.2.11. DOTERM Month and Year of Termination (Cessation) of Disability

Type:	Character X
Data Format:	
Repeating:	
Reset:	
Edited:	
Master Record Location:	MBR (DOCA) Data of Credit Action
Related Data Elements:	
OEEAS Tags:	CDIMOCE, CDIYRCE

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

This data element indicates the date of last removal from disability status.

If applicable, this field reflects the latest data of cessation of disability benefits.

POSSIBLE VALUES

MONTH:

Blank None or unknown
A–L January through December
Z Not available

YEAR:

Units and tens position of the last removal from disability status.

0000 - Not currently in termination status from disability
1941 to Current Year - The last termination of disability (recovery, old-age benefit, death or other)

USAGE NOTES

The current MBR record always overrides the prior CWHS record.

The data collection source is the claims form.

10.2.12. FICASocial Security Earnings

Type:	Numeric
Data Format:	Binary
Repeating:	
Reset:	
Edited:	Annually updated from MEF
Master Record Location:	MEF
Related Data Elements:	**Error! Reference source not found.** on MEF file
OEEAS Tags:	CEA

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

This data element indicates total Social Security-covered earnings for the year, including wages from all employers and earnings from self-employment. Total earnings can exceed the annual taxable maximum if an individual has more than one job.

POSSIBLE VALUES

Numeric (Binary) - Actual Dollars

This data element can have negative values.

USAGE NOTES

Amounts of less than $1.00 are recorded as $1.00. Cents are truncated. This variable corresponds to ERN from the Summary Segment of the MEF.

10.2.13. FIYREM First Year Employed

Type:	Numeric
Data Format:	Binary
Repeating:	
Reset:	
Edited:	
Master Record Location:	MEF
Related Data Elements:	
OEEAS Tags:	CFIYREM

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

This date element indicates the first year of employment with Social Security taxable earnings for this person.

POSSIBLE VALUES

Four-digit Numeric (Binary)

Year - 1937 to current year
0001 -Year is between 1937 and 1950, exact year not known
0000 - Inactive

USAGE NOTES

Note: Since the MEF does not carry individual Social Security (FICA) earnings prior to 1951, the MEF 1937-50 Cumulative Earnings was checked for earnings. If earnings were found, the MEF coded the 'First Year Employed' as '50'. The CWHS process recodes the field to '01'.

This data element does not consider MQGE/non-covered employment. Years with first year employed found prior to 1951 were scouted during manual operations and put into the CWHS file. This is no longer done.

This data element is based on MEF Social Security (FICA) taxable earnings only. OEEAS performs scanning operations in the yearly MEF FICA fields to determine the first year employed.

The logic for determining the First Year Employed is as follows:

Can be obtained from prior CWHS because:
1. Missing MEF
2. CWHS has earnings prior to 1951.

a. If MEF shows 51-TD (to date) activity only, then delete 1937-50 activity in current CWHS, and recode the first year employed to indicate code 2 due to missing or deleted 1937-50 earnings indication.
b. If MEF shows earnings, retain prior CWHS first year employed.

Then, check first year employed in MEF:

1. Obtain from MEF, as is, if later than 50.
2. If equal to 50, and MEF last year employed > 50 with earnings in 1937-50, and CWHS first year employed is 00, code as 01 for year is between 1937 and 1950, exact year not known.

If prior CWHS is missing the year of first employed, obtain from the MEF. If the MEF year is coded '50' then code as '01' for unknown.

10.2.14. E10 Alternate Insurance Status

Type:	Numeric 1
Data Format:	
Repeating:	
Reset:	
Edited:	
Master Record Location:	
Related Data Elements:	INST
OEEAS Tags:	

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

This field identifies an individual's alternate insurance status. Starting in 1961, this data element replaced INST.

An individual's insured status is determined by the quarters of coverage. An individual may fit one or more of the following "insured" categories:

- Currently insured (A) - six or more quarters of coverage within the last three years.
- Fully Insured (B) - The total number of quarters of coverage is 25 percent or more of the number of elapsed quarters, but not fewer than six quarters of coverage.
- Permanently Insured (C) - 40 quarters of coverage or (in the case of older workers) a total number of quarters of coverage that is 25 percent or more of the number of quarters elapsed up to the time the worker attains the age of 65, but not fewer than six quarters of coverage.

POSSIBLE VALUES

1 - Fully and currently insured - condition A and B
2 - Currently but not fully insured - condition A, but not B
3 - Fully but not currently insured - condition B, but not A
4 - Uninsured - neither A or B
5 - Permanently and currently insured - condition A and C
6 - Permanently but not currently insured - condition C but not A
7 - Entitled deaths - accounts with Benefit Status Codes 2-5 & 9
8 - Transitionally insured - starting in 1965 for workers age 72 and over, having one quarter of coverage for each year elapsed after 1950 up to age 65 (62 for female) with a minimum requirement of three quarters of coverage, a basic benefit is payable.

Codes 0-7 are possible for all years; '8' is possible beginning 1/1/66.

Special Provision Codes for 1956:

1 – 1956 special provisions were used to improve the insurance status.
1956 special provisions not needed to improve the insurance status.

Note: Effective 1/1/67, insured status 4 is used for people who are receiving benefits under the Prouty Amendments.

USAGE NOTES

Alternative Insurance Status was used to maximize the number of quarters of coverage an individual could have. If there were not enough quarters of coverage for years 1951 to current year, then quarters of coverage were checked prior to year 1951 to improve the individual's insurance status. This was used for older workers with earnings prior to 1951.

10.2.15. LYEPCY Last Year Employed Prior to Current Year

Type:	Numeric
Data Format:	Binary
Repeating:	
Reset:	
Edited:	
Master Record Location:	
Related Data Elements:	
OEEAS Tags:	CLAYRPR

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

This data element indicates the last year of employment with Social Security taxable earnings for this person.

POSSIBLE VALUES

Four-digit Numeric (Binary)

year	1937 to current year	
0001	-	unknown
0000	-	inactive

USAGE NOTES

This data element does not consider MQGE/non-covered employment.

MEF does not carry individual years of Social Security (FICA) earnings prior to 1951; therefore, if prior to 1951, the 'Last Year of Employed' cannot be determined from the MEF. During a manual operation, prior years were scouted and put into the CWHS File. The manual operation is no longer done.

The data element is based on MEF Social Security (FICA) taxable earnings. If there are no earnings after 1950, obtain the information from Current Last Year Employed.

10.2.16. MQFYE Medicare First Year Employed

Type:	Numeric
Data Format:	Binary
Repeating:	
Reset:	
Edited:	
Master Record Location:	MEF
Related Data Elements:	
OEEAS Tags:	CMQFYE, MQGE

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

This field indicates the Medicare first year employed. The definition varies by year as follows:

1983-1990: First year of employment in a federal, state, or local government job that was only covered by Medicare (exempt from Social Security)

1991-present: First year of employment any job covered by , including all Social Security-covered employment plus all Medicare-only employment.

POSSIBLE VALUES

Four-digit Numeric (Binary)

1983 - present date
0000 - Inactive

USAGE NOTES

Prior to April 1, 1986 this field only applied to federal government workers (MQFE-Medicare Qualified Federal Employee). After this date state and local government workers (MQGE-Medicare Qualified Government Employee) were included in this field.

This data element is based on the first year that Medicare earnings are greater than zero.

10.2.17. MQLYE Medicare Last Year Employed

Type:	
Data Format:	
Repeating:	
Reset:	
Edited:	
Master Record Location:	MEF
Related Data Elements:	
OEEAS Tags:	MQGE, CMQLYE

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

This data element indicates the last year that a federal, state, or local government worker was employed in a job covered only by Medicare, exempt from Social Security.

POSSIBLE VALUES

Four-digit Numeric (Binary)

1983	-	present day
0000	-	Inactive

USAGE NOTES

Prior to April 1, 1986 this field only applied to federal government workers (MQFE-Medicare Qualified Federal Employee). After this date state and local government workers (MQGE-Medicare Qualified Government Employee) were included in this field. After 1990 all workers under Social Security and Medicare are included in this field.

If Medicare Last Year Employed from the MEF is greater than the current year, code it as current year.

10.2.18. MQTW Medicare Taxable Earnings for Years 1983-to-Date

Type:	Numeric
Data Format:	Binary
Repeating:	
Reset:	
Edited:	
Master Record Location:	MEF Summary Portion
Related Data Elements:	
OEEAS Tags:	MQFE, MQGE, CMQERN

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

This data element indicates Medicare-taxable earnings for the years 1983 to date.

From 1983-to-March 1986 this field contains wages for MQFEs (Medicare Qualified Federal Employee). From April 1986-1990 it also contains wages for MQSLEs (Medicare Qualified State and Local Government Employee). From 1991 on, it contains Medicare earnings for all employees.

Medicare Taxable Earnings includes all taxable earnings in Medicare-covered employment.

POSSIBLE VALUES

Numeric (Binary) - Actual Dollars

USAGE NOTES

This data element is capped for years 1991-1993 at the following limits. After 1993 there is no cap.

YEAR Annual Taxable Maximum Amount

1991 125,000
1992 130,200
1993 135,000
1994 to Current Year
Annual Taxable Maximum for Medicare has been eliminated. All earnings since 1994 are subject to Medicare taxation.

Earnings for each year 1991-1993 may exceed the annual taxable maximum because of multiple employers.

Data collected in 1983 may be inaccurate because of partial or double reporting.

10.2.19. MTSEI Medicare Taxable Self-employment Income

Type:	Numeric
Data Format:	Binary
Repeating:	
Reset:	
Edited:	
Master Record Location:	
Related Data Elements:	MQTW
OEEAS Tags:	CMQSEI

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

This data element indicates Medicare-taxable self-employment income for years 1991 to date.

POSSIBLE VALUES

USAGE NOTES

This data element is capped at the same levels as MQTW for years 1991-1993. After 1993, there is no cap.

YEAR Annual Maximum Taxable Amount

1991 125,000
1992 130,200
1993 135,000
1994 to Current Year
Annual maximum taxable amount for Medicare taxation has been eliminated. All earnings since 1994 are subject to Medicare Tax.

Note that MTSEI is included in MQTW.

Earnings for each year may exceed the annual maximum taxable amount because of multiple employers

Data collected in 1983 may be inaccurate because of partial or double reporting.

10.2.20. NYE37TD Number of Years Employed 37-to-Date

Type:	
Data Format:	
Repeating:	
Reset:	
Edited:	
Master Record Location:	MEF
Related Data Elements:	
OEEAS Tags:	CYREM37DT

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

This data element indicates the total number of years employed with Social Security taxable earnings, 1937 to present.

POSSIBLE VALUES

Two-digit Numeric (Binary)
Actual Number of Years

USAGE NOTES

This data element does not consider MQGE (Medicare Qualified Government Earnings or non-covered Earnings).

10.2.21. NYE51DT Number of Years Employed 51-to-Date

Type:	
Data Format:	
Repeating:	
Reset:	
Edited:	
Master Record Location:	MEF
Related Data Elements:	
OEEAS Tags:	CYREM51DT

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

This data element indicates the total number of years employed with Social Security taxable earnings, 1951 to present.

POSSIBLE VALUES

Two-digit Numeric (Binary)

Actual Number of Years from 1951 to Date

USAGE NOTES

This data element does not consider MQGE (Medicare Qualified Government Earnings or non-covered earnings).

10.2.22. PIA Primary Insurance Amount in Force

Type:	Numeric 5
Data Format:	Money: $$$$c
Repeating:	
Reset:	
Edited:	
Master Record Location:	MBR (PIA)
Related Data Elements:	AMTFBF
OEEAS Tags:	PIAPY CPIA,CPIAPR

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

This data element indicates the base amount from which monthly benefit amounts payable to the worker's family members or survivors are determined. The PIA is derived from the worker's annual taxable earnings, averaged over a time period that encompasses most of the worker's adult years and the worker's age at retirement. After 1979, eligible workers' benefits were based on the Average Indexed Monthly Earnings (AIME), replacing the Average Monthly Wage (AMW). The AIME reflects the general earnings level in the indexing year. Beginning with the year of first eligibility, the PIA is increased by cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs)

POSSIBLE VALUES

Numeric - Actual dollars and tens position of PIA for current year

USAGE NOTES

See Amount of Family Benefit in Force (AMTFBF) for the current year or prior year.

10.2.23. RACE Race of Primary

Type:	Numeric 1
Data Format:	
Repeating:	
Reset:	
Edited:	
Master Record Location:	Numident, Prior CWHS
Related Data Elements:	
OEEAS Tags:	CRACE

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

This data element indicates the race of the primary.

POSSIBLE VALUES

Code
1 - White
2 - Black
3 - Other
4 - Asian, Pacific Islander
5 - Hispanic
6 - North American Indian or Eskimo
7 - Unknown

USAGE NOTES

RACE comes from the Numident and is posted in the CWHS.

Prior to 1980 race was coded 1=white, 2=black, 3=other, and 4=unknown.

From 1981 on, race is coded 1=white, non-Hispanic, 2=black, non-Hispanic, 3=other, 4=Asian, Pacific Islander, 5=Hispanic, 6=North American Indian or Eskimo, and 7=Unknown.

10.2.24. SEI Self-Employment Taxable Earnings

Type:	
Data Format:	
Repeating:	repeats, 1951 to current year
Reset:	
Edited:	
Master Record Location:	
Related Data Elements:	
OEEAS Tags:	CSEI

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

This data element indicates the self-employment earnings credited for the year.

POSSIBLE VALUES

This data element can be negative. Negative values represent credit self-employment income. A zero amount with self-employment coverage indicates missing self-employment income.

USAGE NOTES

Self-employment earnings are included in total Social Security earnings (FICA).

10.2.25. SEX Sex of Primary

Type:	Numeric 1
Data Format:	
Repeating:	
Reset:	
Edited:	
Master Record Location:	Numident, Prior CWHS, MEF
Related Data Elements:	
OEEAS Tags:	CSEX

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

This data element indicates the sex of the primary.

POSSIBLE VALUES

1 - Male
2 - Female
3 - Unknown

USAGE NOTES

Initially SEX comes from the Numident file and is posted in the CWHS.

10.2.26. TC Total Compensation for 1978 through Current Year

Type:	numeric
Data Format:	binary
Repeating:	1978 to current year
Reset:	No
Edited:	No
Master Record Location:	Direct move of summary portion of MEF for current processing year.
Related Data Elements:	
OEEAS Tags:	CTOTCOMP

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

This data element contains total wages from all jobs, including employer-reported tips and other compensation as reported on Form W-2. Total compensation does not include deferred compensation or self-employment earnings but it does include any non-covered earnings. (Deferred compensation is not included because it is not subject to federal taxes (e.g., funds contributed to a 401(k) retirement plan). Deferred compensation is taxable by Social Security and Medicare.

POSSIBLE VALUES

Numeric - Actual dollars

USAGE NOTES

Caution should be exercised when using this field for years prior to the current CWHS year. Unlike other summary MEF earnings fields that are included in the CWHS, there are no adjustments for delinquent or correction postings made after the close of the initial posting year.

10.2.27. TOAB Termination of Old-Age Benefits

Type:	Character 1
Data Format:	
Repeating:	
Reset:	
Edited:	
Master Record Location:	Recode from MBR
Related Data Elements:	
OEEAS Tags:	CTERMND

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

This data element indicates termination of old-age benefits and is used to show the reason for the latest termination of old-age benefits.

POSSIBLE VALUES

Blank – Never terminated (not used)

1 - Death of OAB while entitled to a regular old-age benefit
3 - Unknown

A - OAB delete - award from another resource or withdrawn
B - OAB changed to DIB
C - Entitlement deleted - erroneous award or advanced file case terminated
D - Special Prouty[1] or transitional OAB terminated to benefit status 'X' - award from another source.
E - OAB award with termination reason 'TS' (entitled to other benefits) with no DIB award
F - Special (Prouty) or transitional - OAB termination to regular OAB, or special (Prouty) termination to transitional
G - Termination of benefits awarded from another source to special (Prouty) terminated to transitional
P - Death of OAB while entitled to special (Prouty) benefits
T - Death of OAB while entitled to OAB

[1] As part of the Tax Adjustment Act of 1966, Congress provided retirement benefits, to be paid out of general revenue, for people over age 72 who were not insured for Social Security benefits. These benefits became known as Prouty benefits. A person could be entitled to this special payment even with no quarters of coverage if he or she attained age 72 before 1968. Those attaining age 72 after 1967 had to have at least 3 quarters of coverage for each calendar year after 1966 and before the year in which they attained age 72. The benefit amount was the same as for transitional benefits (Kollman, 1996). As of the year 2000, Prouty beneficiaries were almost extinct.

X - Termination of transition or Prouty when they are receiving benefits from another source.(same as benefit status X)
Y - Death of someone in X status. (same as benefit status Y

USAGE NOTES

None.

10.3. CWHS-Related Files

The CWHS has no recurring extracts. However, as discussed earlier in this chapter, the CWHS family consists of multiple files. Below is the record layout of the most widely used file, the One Percent Annual Employee-Employer (EE-ER) File.

10.3.1. One Percent Annual Employee-Employer (EE-ER) File

	Description	Codes	Position
SSN	Social Security Number		1-9
EIN	Employer Identification Number		10-18
YR	Report Year		19-22
SEX	Sex	1-Male 2-Female 3-Unknown	23
RACE	Race	1-White (Not Hispanic) 2- Black (Not Hispanic) 3-Other 4-Asian, Pacific Islander 5-Hispanic 6-N.A. Indian/Eskimo 7-Unknown	24
MOB	Month of Birth	00-Unknown; Numeric	25-26
YOB	Year of Birth	1744-Unknown	27-30
TOE	Type of Employment	A-Regular D-Deferred Comp E-Military G-State & Local M-Agriculture O-MQGE Tips R-Railroad T-Tips	31
MC	Match Code	A-Autocoded Military or Reserve C-Match to NERP G-No match to either ERP or NERP I-Match to NERP w/ '00' State/Industry	32
ERIND	Employer Indication	S-Single M-Multi	33
TOER	Type of Employer	A-Individual S&L Government Official* B-State Government*	34

Description		Codes	Position
		C-County Government* D-Local Government* F-Federal Government (Civilian Employees) G-Federal Government (Military, Reserves, or National Guard)** H-Household M-Multiple EIN Entity N-Nonprofit under IRC 501(c) (3)* R-Church/Church Controlled Organizations S-State and Local Government W-National/Air National Guard X-Military Y-Reserves 1-Individual 2-Corporation (Except Limited) 3-Partnership (Except Limited) 4-Association, Limited Corporation or Partnership, estate or other type of legal entity 5-Blank or Unknown *Effective 1987, these codes are no longer being assigned to new entities. **Effective with 1991 EE-ER, this code was converted to F, W, X, or Y.	
COV	Coverage Code	0-Other 1-Agriculture 2, B-State & Local 3, C-Non-Profit (Form 8274) 5, E-Non-Profit(Form 941) 6, F-Federal civilian 7-Self-reported tips	35

	Description	Codes	Position
		8, H-Household M,4-Military R,9-Reserves W-National Guard T-Reported tips (Alpha or numeric equivalent indicates tips.)	
IND	Industry Code 36-37 Major Group (MG) 38-39 Industry Group	See 1987 Industrial Classification Manual and SSA Foldback Codes 0300-Military 0400-Reserves 0000-Unclassified	36-39
	Residence/Employer Based Geographic Code (GEO) 40-41 Residence/Employer State Code (ST) 42-44 Residence/Employer County Code	See Employer-Worker Geographic Code Manual 03999-Military 04999-Reserves 96000-Unclassified Multi-Unit Employer 97000-Nationwide 98000-Foreign 99990-Ships at Sea 00000-Unclassified	40-44
ERGEO	Employer Based Geographic Code 45-46 Employer State Code (ERST) 47-49 Employer County Code	Refer to Rec. Pos. 40-44 above.	45-49
GEOSRCE	Source of Residence/Employer Geographic Code	1-Residence; 2-Employer	50
EINFICA	Social Security (FICA) Taxable Wages	Includes Cents; EIN Level	51-60
EINTC	Total Compensation	Includes cents; wages, ER reported tips, & other compensation; EIN level (does not include deferred compensation) Includes MQGE (non-FICA only)	61-70
EINMTW	Medicare Taxable Wages	Includes cents; EIN level	71-80
EINDC	Deferred Compensation	EIN level (only for	81-90

Description	Codes	Position
	TOE=D)	

*Effective 1987, these codes are no longer being assigned to new entities.
**Effective with 1991 EE-ER, this code was converted to F, W, X, or Y.